

Application No. 10/070,078
Amendment Transmitted April 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action Mailed November 9, 2004

REMARKS

A. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1-33 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph as being indefinite.

By the amendments made above, all of these rejections are believed to be overcome. Reconsideration of these rejections is requested.

B. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 37-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being indefinite over EP0718061.

Claims 37-47 have been canceled without prejudice thereby obviating their rejection.

C. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-33 would be allowed if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph set forth in the Office Action.

By the claim amendments made above, all of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph set forth in the Office Action are believed to be overcome and the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

D. Summary

In the present Office Action, claims 1-33 and 37-47 were examined. Claims 1-33 and 37-47 are rejected. In response, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 16-20, 25, and 27 were amended, claims 37-47 were canceled, and claims 2, 4, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15, 21-24, 26, and 28-33 as originally filed are presented for reconsideration.

Based on the remarks above, Applicants submit that none of the references, alone or in combination, anticipates or makes obvious the invention as presently claimed and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the application and the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance at the earliest possible date.

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If the Examiner has any questions or believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

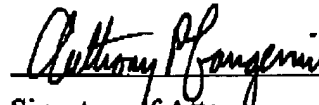
Please apply any credits or charge any deficiencies to our Deposit Account No. 23-1665.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen G. Ballard

Date: April 6, 2005

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